

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NAIROB 16760 281256Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----022189 281257Z /43

O 281220Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3736
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 16760

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: FDIP, ET, US, IT, FR, KE
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PROTECTING POWER IN ETHIOPIA

REF: STATE 306723

1. WE SUPPORT IDEA OF EXPLORING WITH GOK ITS WILLINGNESS
TO ASSUME ROLE OF PROTECTING POWER IF ETHIOPIA BREAKS
WITH US.
2. WE BELIEVE, ON OTHER HAND, THAT ODDS ARE AGAINST FAVORABLE
KENYAN RESPONSE, BECAUSE OF TRADITIONAL OAU STANCE OF AVOIDING
APPEARANCE OF TAKING SIDES ON COLD WAR RELATED ISSUES. WE
WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, TOTALLY DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY.
3. WE THINK THE EFFORT WOTH MAKING BECAUSE:
(A) IF KENYA ACCEPTED, WE WOULD BE SURE OF HAVING AN
EFFECTIVE PROTECTING POWER. SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES OR POTENTIAL
ENEMIES, ETHIOPIA RELIES HEAVILY ON HER FRIENDSHIP WITH NAIROBI.EPMG
WOULD THUS NOT BE LIKELY TO TRY TO HAMPER KENYA'S
MANAGEMENT OF OUR AFFAIRS.
(B) EVEN IF KENYA DECLINED TO ACCEPT THIS RESPONSIBILITY,
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WE THINK THE GOVERNMENT HERE WOULD FEEL VERY COMPLIMENTED BY
THIS SHOW OF FRIENDSHIP AND CONFIDENCE, WITH THE RESULT THAT
OUR ALREADY GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE GOK WOULD BE MADE EVEN
MORE SOLID.

4. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO EXPLORE
MATTER WITH GOK PRIOR TO AN ACTUAL BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH GOE

AND WOULD HOPE TO RECEIVE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE UP SUBJECT WITH GOK IF DETERIORATION CONTINUES AND THREAT OF BREAK BECOMES HIGHLY PROBABLE. (SHOULD THE KENYANS INFORM THE EPMG, THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE TAKING THEIR COMPLAINTS SO SERIOUSLY MIGHT SHOCK THE EPMG INTO RECONSIDERING AND SOFTENING ITS LINE TOWARD US A BIT.)

5. WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHICH ALTERNATIVE AFRICAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING TO REQUEST ASSUMPTION ROLE OF PROTECTING POWER IF BREAK OCCURS AND GOK REFUSED REQUEST.

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Message Attributes

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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: PDIP, ET, US, IT, FR, KE
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